

FIRST COMMUNITY MEETING FOR THE ELK RIVER TMDL

We thank the residents and stakeholders of Elk River for attending our first public meeting held on May 28, 2002. During that meeting, Regional Water Board staff discussed the basics of a sediment TMDL and the TMDL process. Adona White discussed what is a TMDL, the Regional Water Board's authority and mandate to complete TMDLs, the TMDL process and the components of a TMDL. After a brief break, Holly Lundborg joined Adona in answering questions from the audience. If you would like to receive a copy of the presentation or minutes of the first meeting, please contact Adona at the Regional Water Board.

SECOND COMMUNITY MEETING FOR THE ELK RIVER TMDL

Our second meeting for the Elk River TMDL will be held July 30, 2002. Since this meeting will contain information that applies to both Elk River and Freshwater Creek TMDLs, the meetings will be combined for both watersheds during this July community meeting.

Elk River TMDL Update

Regional Water Board staff will provide updates on the current progress of the TMDL efforts in the Elk River watershed. This progress includes work on the problem statement, numeric targets for the watershed, and contact with groups that are likely to have information about the watershed.

The problem statement is a description of the watershed setting, beneficial use impairments of concern, and pollutants or stressors causing the impairment

Numeric targets identify measurable indicators and target values that can be used to evaluate the effectiveness of TMDL efforts and restoration of water quality in the watershed. Numeric targets are usually divided into two categories, instream and upslope targets, and are not enforceable.

Finally, a list of people and organizations with potentially useful watershed data and information has been developed. This contact list will be presented. If you have knowledge of people or organizations with watershed information, please notify Adona White.

Garcia River Implementation Plan

In addition, in response to interest raised at the first meeting, Lisa Cinti of the Regional Water Board staff will discuss the Garcia River TMDL implementation plan. This presentation will provide insight into implementation measures being required of landowners and how landowners demonstrate their compliance with the Garcia River TMDL. Although the Elk River TMDL will have a watershed-specific implementation plan, the presentation will provide stakeholders with an overview of the only existing sediment TMDL implementation plan. The group will have an opportunity to ask questions about the Garcia implementation plan and provide general suggestions regarding the Elk River implementation plan.

ELK RIVER STAKEHOLDER SURVEYS

Through the TMDL process, Regional Water Board staff is to estimate sediment loads, necessary sediment load reductions, and means of achieving those reductions. As knowledgeable residents and stakeholders in the watershed, we seek your assistance. The TMDL process offers an exceptional opportunity for all interested parties to share knowledge, experience, and creative ideas with the goal of restoring healthy watershed conditions in Elk River.

In an effort to gather your input, we have included a short written survey with this newsletter. We strongly encourage you to answer the questions and to return the completed survey to staff either at our next meeting or via mail. This survey will help Regional Water Board staff in understanding how people have used the watershed, what changes have been observed, what events triggered those changes, and how impairments affect stakeholders, as well as assist in developing a recovery plan.

In the near future, Regional Water Board staff will conduct in-depth interviews of residents with extensive knowledge of the watershed that are unable to convey their information in the included short survey. If you would like to participate in the in-depth interview, please contact Adona White.

SEDIMENT TMDL DEVELOPMENT IN ELK RIVER

The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have listed the Elk River watershed under the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) as a sediment impaired waterbody. A program has been developed to recover 303(d) List waterbodies via the establishment of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL). At this time, the Regional Water Board is in the process of establishing a TMDL for sediment in the Elk River watershed. The goal of the TMDL program is to restore the sediment impaired uses of Elk River and its tributaries.

This is the second in a series of newsletters to keep you informed about the Elk River TMDL process.

WHAT IS A TMDL?

A TMDL – or **T**otal **M**aximum **D**aily **L**oad – is a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant (or load) that a waterbody can receive and still meet protective water quality standards. A sediment TMDL is the sum of the allowable loads of sediment from all contributing natural and land management inputs, with consideration for seasonal variations. The TMDL process provides a framework for assessing the watershed condition, evaluating all sediment sources contributing to water quality problems in the waterbody, and developing a water quality restoration plan for all landuses and ownerships across the watershed.

SEDIMENT, WATER QUALITY, AND TMDLs



ELK RIVER SEDIMENT TMDL PUBLIC MEETING

The second in a series of public scoping meetings will be held **July 30, 2002, 7-9 PM at the Agricultural Extension Service Building, 5630 S. Broadway in Eureka.**

We encourage all stakeholders to attend this public meeting and talk with Regional Water Board staff working on development of the Elk River sediment TMDL. We are committed to strong public participation, keeping you aware of progress in the process, and seeking your input throughout the TMDL process.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For information regarding the Elk River TMDL, please contact:

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